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Period 4

1. Many see standardized testing as the answer to improving public education in the United States. Thus, students face district- and state-mandated tests as well as national exams. What do you think? Write an essay discussing whether standardized testing is an effective way to bring about improved instruction and performance. Then, research the topic, and revise your essay by broadening its scope beyond your own experience.

Many high school students experience taking standardize tests throughout their high school career. Standardized tests are tests that are made up in such a way that the "questions, conditions for administering, scoring procedures, and interpretations are consistent". After a student completes highschool they will most likely go onto college, and colleges strongly look at standardize test scores and the overall scores your highschool recived. Although many people feel that taking standardized tests improve our public education, I believe these tests effect our student s in more negative ways than in positive ways. There are many reasons why I feel this way, however I do think that something positive comes out from taking standardized tests.

There are many reasons from standardized tests that explain the negative effects from taking them. Mainly, standardized tests require a lot of preparation from both the students and the teachers. Teachers spend many days and long hours to make sure their students are ready for the type of standardized test. Therefore the negative effect of this is that teachers lose time when they could be teaching something more important instead of preparing for the standardized tests. Students also spend many hours of preparation. For example, if a student does poorly on a test they might spend hundreds of dollars for a tutor to help prepare the student when they take it again. Another effect tha students may have when taking a standardized test is nervousness. This might not seem like a major effect when taking a test, I feel being nervous can affect your whole test taking stragary. Being nervous can make you speed up and go faster than you would like, therefore you probably wont be able to think as well and may miss easy questions that you wouldn’t normally miss.

I have also had experience with taking standardized tests. Throughout middle school and highschool we are required to take different types of standardized test, such as the PSSA and the SAT. Most standardized tests are set up the same way, however they vary with the type of questions. Many schools require students to take standardized tests to see the overall score from the whole school. They do this in order to see if their curriculum is moving at the right pace so their students are ready for college.

I feel standardize tests are not an effective way to improve our public education or any education in general. By taking standardized tests, they don’t explain a student and colleges shouldn’t base their choice of students on standardized test scores because there is more to a student than just a test. During high school you take many tests, so I feel standardized tests are a useless test. Although these types of tests explain how well students over a population know the information, I believe there are other ways to see if students are being challenged or not.